



October 16, 2015

The Honorable Michael Callton
Health Policy Committee
Michigan House of Representatives
Anderson House Office Building, N-1191
Lansing, MI 48933

RE: Substitute for House Bill 4437 (Draft 2)

Dear Committee Chair Callton:

The Michigan Council of Nurse Practitioners (MICNP) supports the passage of HB 4437; to define biologics, biosimilars and interchangeable biosimilars in the Michigan Public Health Code, and to allow for automatic substitution of interchangeable biosimilars without requiring a pharmacist to notify a prescriber. We encourage the legislature to adopt these policies as they are consistent with currently implemented federal regulations, and parallel the position that the Federal Drug Administration (FDA) has for interchangeability for generics.

Notification by pharmacies to prescribers for each incidence of when an interchangeable biosimilar is being dispensed would create an unnecessary additional administrative burden for all providers. We do agree that prescriber notification should be required if a pharmacist wishes to substitute a biosimilar that was not deemed interchangeable by the FDA, and also that a patient could opt out of receiving a biosimilar by simply requesting the brand name drug, as long as they were aware that a biosimilar was available, at a lower cost.

Additionally, we believe that this legislation would improve consumer choice in addition to fostering competition in the biological drug market, thus driving down medical costs.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide our support for House Bill 4437. If you have questions, you may contact MICNP Executive Director Olivia McLaughlin at (734)432-9881 or olivia@micnp.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ann Sheehan MICNP".

Ann Sheehan, DNP, CPNP
President
Michigan Council of Nurse Practitioners

cc: MICNP State Board